

SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2

Agenda

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PART II

Thursday, May 16, 2002
Upon Adjournment of Session
Room 4203

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0250- Judicial Council

FINANCE LETTERS ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

General Fund Reduction. This Finance letter proposes an unallocated one-time reduction of \$2.8 million General Fund for the support of the Judiciary. The total proposed budget for this item was \$349.8 million (\$294.6 million General Fund). This proposed reduction is less than 1 percent of the total proposed budget.

Rental Payments. This Finance Letter proposes an increase of \$35,000 from the General Fund and a reduction in Reimbursements of \$35,000. This change reflects a shift in funding from reimbursements to the General Fund due to a decrease in interest earnings and surplus construction funds to pay base rental payments for a lease revenue funded project.

ISSUE

Temporary Law Clerks Program

Background. For the past three years, the appellate courts with the most severe caseload, have been assisted by 21 additional research attorneys and 7 additional judicial secretaries who work exclusively on the pending cases that comprise the backlog. The research attorneys are two-year limited-term clerkship positions that are generally offered to recent law school graduates. The funding for these additional positions was originally approved by the Legislature for a two-year period in 1998, and again in 2000.

According to a Judicial Council evaluation, this program has resulted in significant improvements in nearly all areas of caseload management:

- **Disposition** of cases increased in all three courts, ranging from 9 to 32 percent;
- The number of **written opinions** increased in two of the three courts (9 and 54 percent);
- **Median case-processing time** for criminal and juvenile cases decreased in all three courts, (ranging from a 5 to 58 percent decrease) and, for civil cases, in one of the three courts (9 percent); and
- The number of **pending cases** (backlog) decreased in all three courts, ranging from 21 to 35 percent.

Staff Comments. Should the Subcommittee wish to continue the program on a permanent basis, the funding for the 21 research attorney positions would be \$1.6 million from the General Fund.
Action.

0450 Trial Court Funding

FINANCE LETTERS ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

Security Augmentation. This Finance Letter proposes an increase of \$9.6 million from the General Fund to provide funding for increased costs associated with providing security at trial court facilities. These increased security costs are related to salary increases negotiated by local law enforcement agencies that are passed on to the courts through security contracts. This request is in addition to the \$13.4 million request included in the January budget proposal and approved by the Subcommittee.

General Fund Reduction. This Finance Letter proposes an unallocated, one-time reduction of \$59.2 million from the General Fund for the operations of the trial courts. . The total proposed budget for this item was \$2.2 billion (\$1.2 billion General Fund).The proposed reduction is 2.7 percent of the total proposed budget.

0690 Office of Emergency Services

Disaster Assistance Funding.

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes a reduction of \$5.0 million General Fund in disaster assistance funding for local agencies. The total proposed budget for local disaster assistance funding was \$568.6 million. The proposed reduction is less than 1 percent for the total budget for this activity.

Staff Comments. The Subcommittee may wish to ask the OES what the budget for this program is in the current year and the amount expended to date.

Action.

FINANCE LETTERS ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

Nuclear Planning Assessment Special Account. This Finance Letter proposes to increase the appropriation from the Nuclear Planning Assessment Special Account to reflect the actual consumer price index calculation as required by Chapter 543, statutes of 1998. A total increase of \$79,000 is required to reflect the correct Price Index calculation increase as required by Chapter 543, Statutes of 1998. This letter requests a total of \$66,000 as identified above, and the remainder will be requested in a letter related to the Department of Health Services.

CAPITAL OUTLAY FINANCE LETTER ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

Headquarters Perimeter Fence Project. This Finance Letter proposes to reduce the budget by \$1.6 million by deferring the headquarters perimeter fence project. This project had previously been approved by the Subcommittee.

0820 Department of Justice

FINANCE LETTERS

California Anti-Terrorism Information Center (CATIC)

Budget Request. This Finance Letter requests an increase of \$13.4 million General Fund and 78 positions to continue and expand funding for the CATIC program which provides investigative assistance to local and federal law enforcement, intelligence gathering, and a statewide informational database which is used to analyze terrorist activities within the state. This expansion would provide additional field and intelligence agents, along with a headquarters unit, to enhance the capabilities of the program.

Staff Comments. The Administration intends to reimburse the General Fund from future federal funds allocated to California for security-related purposes.

Analyst's Comments. The LAO notes that, based upon the limited information available on the proposal, that there are essentially two components to the proposal: one component provides funding and staff for the expansion of the information database and data collection and tracking activities, and the other component provides funding and staff for the expansion of field investigations. The LAO notes that while the program may be necessary in view of the events of September 11, 2001, they have concerns about the proposed level of expansion in light of the state's fiscal crisis and uncertainty regarding the receipt of future federal funds for such ongoing activities.

Given these concerns, the LAO notes that the Legislature may wish to consider reducing the proposal until California is in receipt of federal funds for this activity. One possible approach would be to provide funding for data collection and tracking as proposed, but reduce the funding and positions for the field investigations since the latter can be handled by local law enforcement. The LAO recommends that the Subcommittee request an estimate from DOJ on the amount of savings generated from not funding the field operations of CATIC. This adjustment to CATIC would allow the state to perform an increased level of data collection and surveillance of terrorism activities, while relying on local law enforcement for investigation without the risk of committing significant state funds to ongoing activities.

Staff Recommendation. At this time, staff has not received additional information to justify the program. Staff notes that DOJ has redirected up to \$5 million in the current year to begin funding some of the activities related to CATIC. Staff recommends an action to send this issue to conference.

Action

State Mandated Local Programs

Background. The budget includes funding for mandate claims related to three programs at the DOJ: Custody of Minors program (Chapter 1399, Statutes of 1976), Stolen Vehicle Notification Program (chapter 337, Statutes of 1990), and Booking/Fingerprinting for Misdemeanors (Chapter 1105, Statutes of 1992).

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes to reduce the funding for mandate claims in the budget year. Claims would still be submitted by local government and accepted by the state, however, payments of the claims would be postponed. Under this proposal the state would pay the claim and interest accrued, after the budget year. This proposal would reduce generate General Fund savings of \$15.3 million.

Staff Recommendation. No issues have been raised regarding this issue. Staff recommends approval of the Finance Letter.

Action.

FINANCE LETTERS ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

Richmond DNA Laboratory. This Finance Letter proposes an increase of \$1,561,000 General Fund for additional lease and tenant improvement costs for the Richmond DNA Laboratory.

General Fund Reduction. This Finance Letter proposes an unallocated reduction of \$10.0 million from the General Fund for the DOJ's various divisions and programs. The General Fund budget for DOJ is \$323.8 million. This unallocated reduction represents a 3.1 percent reduction from the proposed General Fund budget.

California Crime and Violence Prevention Partnership Program. This Finance Letter proposes a decrease of \$1.5 million from the General Fund for the California Gang, Crime and Violence Prevention Partnership (Calgang) Program. This program is currently funded at \$3 million.

Spousal Abuser Prosecution Program. This Finance Letter proposes a decrease of \$800,000 from the General Fund for the Spousal Abuser Prosecution Program. The budget for this program is currently \$3.8 million.

CAPITAL OUTLAY FINANCE LETTER ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

Statewide DNA Laboratory. This Finance Letter proposes to reduce funding by \$5 million by deferring funding for land acquisition for a new statewide DNA analysis laboratory. The Subcommittee had previously held this item open pending a May Revision proposal.

2720 California Highway Patrol

Infrastructure Protection.

Budget Request. The budget proposes \$89.6 million from federal funds and 236 new positions to maintain a higher level of security to protect portions of the state's infrastructure that are considered susceptible to attack by terrorists. The total amount of on-going funding is \$76 million. Specifically, the proposal includes augmentations for the following:

- 33 officers to provide enhanced security at the state Capitol and state office buildings and facilities.
- 40 officers to provide security at nine major bridges and the Trans Bay Terminal.
- 100 officers to operate the state's 18 commercial vehicle inspection facilities 24 hours a day.
- 50 officers assigned to inspect carriers of hazardous materials.
- 24 officers to serve on various joint-terrorism task forces and to staff a new Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center.
- 24 pilots and flight officers to operate five additional helicopters for expanded air operations.
- 18 officers to provide security for nuclear power plants and state health laboratories.
- \$32.5 million for overtime costs in the event of tactical alerts.
- \$2.5 million for equipment to protect officers against chemical weapons.

Staff Comments. The budget proposes that the \$89.6 million in federal funds be transferred to the MVA and includes budget bill language allowing any additional funds received from the federal government for this purpose to also be transferred to the MVA. The president's proposed federal budget includes \$37.7 billion for security funding for the federal fiscal year beginning October 2002. Of this amount a total of \$3.5 billion is proposed for supporting first responders. At this time, there are no specifics regarding how this money will be allocated, whether this funding is one-time or on-going, or what types of expenditures will be eligible. The Department of Finance indicates that a portion of this funding, or additional funding will be available from the federal government. However, at this time no funding from the federal government has been specifically dedicated for these expenditures.

Staff Recommendation. Staff recommends approval of the proposed budget bill language which would transfer federal funds received to the MVA in order to reimburse the MVA for these expenditures. Staff further recommends that the funding for the proposed new positions be made on a one-year limited-term basis. This would protect the MVA from ongoing expenditures and allow for time to determine whether federal funds will become available. Should the positions expire at the end of the fiscal year, the CHP would be able to absorb the reductions in positions through attrition. In order to achieve additional savings to the MVA, staff also recommends reducing the number of proposed helicopter purchases from the MVA in the budget year from five to three, for a savings of \$7.9 million. Authority to expend federal funds for the purchase of the additional helicopters would remain in the budget, allowing CHP to purchase the two additional helicopters when federal funds become available.

Action.

FINANCE LETTERS

Cargo Container Security

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes an increased of \$3.1 million from the MVA for the purchase and installation of nuclear detection devices at five California Highway Patrol (CHP) inspection facilities that are near or on the California border, and for devices to be installed at three ports of entry; Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland. With these devices, the CHP will be able to determine if haulers are illegally carrying cargoes that include nuclear materials. Staff training and multi-year maintenance costs for the devices are included in the \$85,000 per device cost estimate and existing CHP personnel will operate these devices.

To conform this issue to other homeland security expenditures proposed for the CHP, this proposal includes an increase in federal funds to reflect the revenue transfer of anticipated federal funds to the Motor Vehicle Account (MVA) to reimburse the MVA for the initial expenditures related to this proposal.

Staff Recommendation. Staff recommends approval of this Finance Letter. Staff notes that the costs for this proposal appear to be one-time in nature.

Action.

Increased Security for the Golden Gate Bridge

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes an increased of \$649,000 from the MVA for six additional officers to ensure the security of the Golden Gate Bridge related to terrorist activities.

To conform this issue to other homeland security expenditures proposed for the CHP, this proposal includes an increase in federal funds to reflect the revenue transfer of anticipated federal funds to the Motor Vehicle Account (MVA) to reimburse the MVA for the initial expenditures related to this proposal.

Staff Recommendation. Staff recommends conforming this issue with the action taken on the previous infrastructure protection proposal.

Action.

PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR ISSUES

Postage Rate Increase. This Finance Letter proposes an increase of \$73,000 from the MVA to fund costs related to the increase in United States Postal Service rates, which become effective July 1, 2002.

Lease Revenue Bond Payments. The Department of Finance has noted a technical issue related to the lease revenue bond payments for certain of the CHP facilities. DGS has recalculated the amounts owed in 2002-03 on which the item was put into the Budget Bill. Based on that recalculation, DOF indicates that reimbursements should be reduced by \$3,000, and an increase from the MVA appropriation by a like amount should be made.

CAPITOL OUTLAY FINANCE LETTERS ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

Williams Replacement Facility. This Finance Letter proposes to reduce the funding from the MVA by \$3 million for the construction phase of the Williams Replacement Facility. The current project timeline reflects that the construction funding will not be needed until 2003-04.

Reappropriation of Funds for Williams Area Office. This Finance Letter proposes to reappropriate funding for the working drawings for this project due to a revised project timeline and delays in completing the preliminary plans.

8100 Office of Criminal Justice Planning

OCJP Summary of Program Budget Amounts by Fund – Local Assistance			2002-03		
(Dollars in Thousands)					
Program	January 10 Proposal		May Revise Proposal		Reduction
	Total	General Fund	Total	General Fund	
Victim Services					
Victim Witness Assistance	\$ 10,871		\$ 10,871		0
Victim’s Legal Resource Center	173	173	86	86	-87
Domestic Violence	10,211	1,460	9,481	730	-730
Family Violence Prevention	194	194	97	97	-97
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)	12,990		12,990		0
Rape Crisis	3,771	101	3,720	50	-51
Rape Prevention (DHS)	5,571		5,571		0
Homeless Youth	883	883	441	441	-442
Youth Emergency Telephone Referral	338	338	169	169	-169
Child Sex Abuse & Exploitation	981	3	979	1	-2
Child Sex Abuse Prevention & Training	672	672	336	336	-336
Child Abuse/Abduction Prevention	495		495		0
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	39,267		39,267		0
Mandates Claims Bill	851	851	2	2	-849
Subtotals- Victims Services	\$87,344	\$4,675	\$84,581	\$1,912	-\$2,763
Public Safety					
Community Crime Resistance	\$923	\$923	\$461	\$461	-\$462
War on Methamphetamine	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	-5,000
Career Criminal Apprehension	2,308	2,308	1,154	1,154	-1,154
Career Criminal Prosecution	3,987	3,987	1,993	1,993	-1,994
Major Narcotics Vendors Prosecution	2,641	2,641	1,320	1,320	-1,321
Serious Habitual Offender	547	547	273	273	-274
Vertical Prosecution of Statutory Rape	8,361	8,361	4,180	4,180	-4,181
Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	-1,000
Child Sex Assault Prosecution	1,304	1,304	652	652	-652
Evidentiary Medical Training	1,364	1,364	682	682	-682
Children’s Justice Act (CJA)	1,770		1,770		0
Vertical Defense of Indigents	692	692	346	346	-346
California Innocence Protection Program	800	800	400	400	-400
Public Prosecutors/Defenders Training	821	29	806	14	-15
Byrne Fund	52,118		52,118		0
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	6,545		6,545		0
Local Law Enforcement	882		882		0
Peace Officer Protective Equipment	178		178		0
High Tech Theft Apprehension/Prosecution	13,518	13,300	9,341	9,123	-4,177
Suppression of Drug Abuse in Schools	3,263	1,451	2,494	682	-769
Gang Violence Suppression	6,620	4,728	4,299	2,407	-2,321
Multi Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium	248	248	124	124	-124
Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention	6,060		6,060		0
Community Delinquency Prevention	5,002		5,002		0
Juvenile Accountability Incentive	21,769		21,769		0
Juvenile Justice—Project Challenge	1,114		1,114		0
Rural Crime Prevention	3,541	3,541	1,770	1,770	-1,771
Subtotals – Public Safety	\$163,376	\$63,224	\$136,733	\$36,799	-\$26,643
Totals, Local Assistance	\$250,720	\$67,899	\$221,314	\$38,711	\$29,406

FINANCE LETTERS

General Fund Reduction

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes a 50 percent General Fund reduction to various local assistance grant programs, for a total savings of \$19.4 million. This proposal does not include the proposed reductions for the War on Meth program and the High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution Program which are discussed in later issues.

Issue. The LAO raises several concerns with this proposal. First, some of the programs are reduced to levels that may render them ineffective and no longer viable. Given the relatively small amounts budgeted for certain programs under the May Revise proposal, the LAO notes that the Legislature may wish to eliminate funds for these programs since they may no longer be viable or cost-effective to operate.

Second, programs with smaller budgets are disproportionately affected by the proposed across-the-board reduction, including some programs that provide direct services to vulnerable populations. At the same time, other programs administered by OCJP, such as the High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution program, which do not provide direct services to victims, would not receive the same level of reduction under this proposal. Finally, to the extent that the proposed reduction results in a reduced number of grantees, the LAO notes that the Legislature may wish to consider reducing the number of OCJP staff to reflect the reduced workload.

Analyst Recommendation. The LAO recommends that this proposal be sent to conference to allow additional time to assess the impact of the proposal and consider alternatives or modifications.

Staff Recommendation. The table on the previous page shows the proposed May Revise reductions. The Subcommittee may wish to ask how the OCJP will implement these proposed reductions. Staff recommends ensuring that this issue is sent to conference. One option available to the Subcommittee is to restore the \$1.9 million in reductions to Victims Services programs and taking additional reductions in some of the Public Safety grants, such as the five vertical prosecution programs in the next issue. Other options include reducing each of the grants to \$1,000, and reducing each of the grants by \$1,000. Action.

Vertical Prosecution Programs

Budget Request. The May Revise proposes to reduce the five vertical prosecution programs administered by OCJP by 50 percent, bringing the funding down from \$18.3 (General Fund) to \$9.2 million. This amount was included as part of the reduction indicated in the previous issue. The LAO notes that the proposed reductions reduces the funding for the individual vertical prosecution programs to relatively minimal level, and raises the question of whether it is cost-efficient for the state to continue to fund these programs. For example, under the Governor's proposal-assuming each county's grant is reduced by 50 percent, Los Angeles County's grant from the career criminal vertical prosecution would be reduced from \$600,000 to \$300,000, and the grant from the elder abuse vertical prosecution program would be reduced from \$30,000 to \$15,000.

The LAO notes that vertical prosecution programs were originally established to test the effectiveness of vertical prosecution in general, and in specific crimes. The practice has since been shown to be effective in improving prosecution outcomes. In fact, it is now considered best practice among prosecutors. As

such, and to the extent that law enforcement has traditionally been a local responsibility, the LAO believes that local district attorneys may be more willing to make vertical prosecution a local funding priority.

Staff Recommendation. Staff notes that funding for the local district attorneys is also provided in the COPS program, which was not reduced in the May Revise. Staff recommends elimination of the five vertical prosecution grant programs.

Action.

High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution Program

Budget request. This Finance Letter proposes a \$4.2 million reduction from the High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution Program for local assistance. This reduction would reduce this program to a total of \$10 million. Of this amount \$9.1 million is for local assistance funding for the five regional task forces and \$750,000 is for POST training, and \$127,000 is for OCJP to perform liaison activities.

Staff Recommendation. Staff recommends approval of the Finance Letter.

Action.

War on Methamphetamine

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes a \$5 million reduction in local assistance funding for the War on Methamphetamine Program.

Staff Comments. The Subcommittee may wish to ask OCJP how this reduction will be distributed among the grantees, and what the impact of the reduction will be.

Action.

Cold Hit Program

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes to revert \$6 million from the DNA Profiling Program that was authorized in the Budget Act of 2000 to the General Fund, in recognition of actual caseload that is lower than originally estimated. The amount of the original appropriation was \$50 million. Based on the number of cases located to-date, the total funding for the program would be \$2.5 million. This proposal seeks to increase funding to locate an estimated additional 5,000 cases for testing. The Subcommittee previously approved a redirection of \$4 million from this program to fund domestic violence shelters, and approved the remainder of the program as budgeted.

Analyst's Comments. The LAO raises two concerns with the May Revise proposal. One is that the costs for discovering the new cases is almost double the cost for the already identified cases. The other problem is that there may not be 5,000 cases undiscovered but viable for laboratory analysis.

Staff Recommendation. Staff recommends approval of the Finance Letter reduction.

Action.

State Mandated Local Programs

Background. The budget includes funding for mandate claims related to two programs at the OCJP: Threats Against Peace Officers Program (Chapter 1249, Statutes of 1992 and Chapter 666, Statutes of 1995), and Crime Victims Rights program (Chapter 411, Statutes of 1995).

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes to reduce the funding for mandate claims in the budget year. Claims would still be submitted by local government and accepted by the state, however, payments of the claims would be postponed. Under this proposal the state would pay the claim and interest accrued, after the budget year. This proposal would generate General Fund savings of \$849,000.

Staff Recommendation. Staff recommends approval of the Finance Letter reduction.
Action.

ISSUE

Juvenile Justice Programs

Background. The OCJP oversees about \$40 million in federal funds that support several programs aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency and juvenile crime. These programs generally provide local assistance to counties and other agencies to conduct programs that are intended to decrease juvenile delinquency. They are very similar to programs administered by the Board of Corrections (BOC). For example, the BOC administers the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant Program and the Crime Prevention Act of 2000. Moreover, BOC's linkages with local agencies have fostered a constructive state-local partnership in the administration of these programs.

Request. Senator Burton requests that the Subcommittee transfer responsibility and funding for the following juvenile justice programs now administered by the OCJP to the BOC.

- Jail Removal Program
- JJDP Title II- State Challenge Activities Grant Program
- Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program
- Probation Specialized Units Program
- Title II: Delinquency Prevention & Intervention Program and Positive Alternatives Program
- Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- Community Delinquency Prevention
- Gang Violence Suppression

Comments. Senator Burton notes that in a time of severe budget cuts, it is essential that the state maximize unnecessary duplication and overlap. The Federal Fund and General Fund portions of the following programs would be transferred from OCJP to the BOC. Staff notes that this is consistent with the LAO memo related to overlap and duplication of juvenile justice programs:

Action.

8120 Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

State Mandated Local Programs

Background. The budget includes funding for mandate claims related to one program at the POST: Domestic Violence Arrest Policies and Standards (Chapter 246, Statutes of 1995).

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes to reduce the funding for mandate claims in the budget year. Claims would still be submitted by local government and accepted by the state, however, payments of the claims would be postponed. Under this proposal the state would pay the claim and interest accrued, after the budget year. This proposal generate General Fund savings of \$6.9 million.

Staff Recommendation. No issues have been raised regarding this issue. Staff recommends approval of the Finance Letter.
Action.

8140 Office of the State Public Defender

FINANCE LETTER ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

General Fund Reduction. This Finance Letter proposes a reduction of \$250,000 from the General Fund to reflect the elimination of currently vacant positions. The total proposed budget for the State Public Defender was \$11 million. This reduction represents a 2.3 percent reduction from the originally proposed budget.

8300 Agricultural Labor Relations Board

FINANCE LETTER ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

General Fund Reduction. This Finance Letter proposes an unallocated reduction of \$519,000 from the General Fund to reflect a reduction to the operations of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. The total proposed budget for the ALRB was \$5.2 million. This proposal represents a 10 percent reduction from the original budget.

8690 Seismic Safety Commission

FINANCE LETTER ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

Field Act Study. This Finance Letter proposes an increase of \$100,000 in reimbursements. This funding would allow the Seismic Safety Commission to convene an advisory committee to conduct a study regarding the Field Act, pursuant to AB 16 (Chapter 33, Statutes of 2002).

8700 California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board

FINANCE LETTERS ON PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR

San Francisco Victim Recovery Center. This Finance Letter proposes an increase of \$1.3 million from the Restitution Fund to provide continuing support for the victim recovery center pilot project being operated in conjunction with San Francisco General Hospital. This program was established pursuant to Chapter 1016, Statutes of 2000.

Criminal Restitution Compact. This Finance Letter proposes an increase of \$81,000 from the Restitution Fund to provide for cost-of-living increases pursuant to contracts with counties that assist in the recovery of restitution payments.

Restitution Fund Loan. This Finance Letter proposes to eliminate budget bill item authorizing a \$20.0 million loan from the Restitution Fund to the General Fund. Due to revised claims payment estimates and other pressures on the Restitution Fund, the Department of Finance indicates that this loan is no longer feasible. This issue had been previously left open by the Subcommittee, pending additional analysis of the availability of funds in the Restitution Fund.

FINANCE LETTERS

Travel Reduction for Board Meetings-

Budget Request. This Finance Letter proposes a reduction of \$24,000 (\$19,000 Restitution Fund, \$5,000 General Fund) in the Board's travel budget to reflect the savings associated with the proposed discontinuation of Southern California board meetings. This reduction requires the following proposed trailer bill language.

Government Code Section 13915 is amended to read:

"13915. The board shall ~~schedule its meetings for the purpose of receiving and acting upon claims so that the meetings are held in southern California at least once in every two consecutive calendar months. The board shall specify on each claim form the location and approximate frequency of its meetings held for the purpose of receiving and acting upon claims. The claimant may designate on the form a preferred location where the board holds its meetings, and the board shall hear the claim at the location designated by the claimant~~ hold regular meetings in Sacramento and may hold other meetings at such times and places within the state as a majority of the board directs. At any meeting the board may transact any business and perform all duties imposed upon it."

Staff Comments. The Subcommittee may wish to ask what impact this change is likely to have on the operations of the board.

Action.